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SAN FRANCISCO OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE FIREHOUSE
(Yerba Buena Island Garage)
(Caltrans Firehouse)
(Caltrans Garage)
San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge System
Adjacent to north side of bridge on Yerba Buena Island
San Francisco
San Francisco County
California

HAER No. CA-230

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge System, Yerba Buena Island, City and County of San Francisco, California.

On Yerba Buena Island east of the tunnel's east portal, between the east viaduct of the Bay Bridge and the westbound on-ramp to the Bay Bridge.

UTM Zone 10: 555070, 4185860, USGS 7.5 Quad Oakland West, 1959 (rev.1980)

Significance: This modest, utilitarian structure was built (1936-1937) as an integral part of the San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge, a property which has previously been determined eligible for National Register listing under criteria A, B, and C. Although the building is shown as a "Service Garage" on the original construction drawings, it is labeled "firehouse" on several later sets of plans, indicating that it once housed one or more fire trucks servicing the bridge (and possibly also other properties on Yerba Buena Island). The building includes a locker room and office in addition to the vehicle storage area. As a facility which was designed and built to serve the Bay Bridge and its maintenance workers, this building is a contributing component of the National Register eligible bridge and it is significant for its association with that prominent accomplishment in civil engineering. Although it was enlarged in the mid-1960's and the original garage doors have been removed, the building retains its close functional association with the Bay Bridge and sufficient integrity to be eligible for National Register listing as a contributing element of the bridge.

Description: This one story, concrete building has a flat roof and is approximately 63 feet long (east to west) by 31 feet wide. The east facade is entirely open to provide access to the two vehicle bays. The folding metal doors that originally covered this opening have been removed. The windows are multi-pane metal sash and there are two exterior doors on the south elevation. The building was made approximately 13 feet longer in the mid-1960's, with an addition to the west.

Historical Context:

This building was designed in 1936 by the Board of Consulting Architects for the San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge. The board consisted of Timothy L. Pflueger, Chair, Arthur Brown Jr., and John J. Donovan, three very prominent Bay Area Architects. The building was constructed as an integral component of the San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge.

Sources:

Bibliography:

State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Historic Resource Record and Building, Structure, and Object Record (DPR523A, B and L) prepared by Andrew Hope, Caltrans District 4 (Oakland) located at the Caltrans Office, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California

History of the San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge, Steve Mikesell, JRP Consulting Services, Davis, California

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Project Information:

This structure is being documented as part of the environmental impact study for the proposed seismic retrofit of the San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge because the building has been determined potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and because of its close proximity to the existing bridge retrofit project. Architectural data form prepared by Geraldine Peterson, Architectural Historian, 9/1/1998 under Recordation of the San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Contract Number 040069, Hansen-Murakami-Eshima, Consultants, Dan Peterson AIA, and Associates, Inc, HAER Consultant.

Supplemental Information:

3.5" x 5.5" negatives and prints of Caltrans Photos taken during construction of bridge are located at the Caltrans District 4 Office at 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA



Historic Photo: Caltrans photograph 14-16 dated 11/18/36 titled Y.B. Island Garage showing the building near the end of construction with construction debris at the right and a fire truck in front of the building.